

Chapter 3 - Public Notice

The Public Notice SBR requires compliance with all applicable State and local public notice requirements. The Department also recommends that the Tier A Municipality more broadly include residents of the municipality in developing, implementing, and reviewing the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SPPP). Such participation and involvement may substantially promote the success of this program.

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

Minimum Standard

Tier A Municipalities shall comply with applicable State and local public notice requirements when providing for public participation in the development and implementation of the Tier A Municipality's Stormwater Program.

Measurable Goal

Tier A Municipalities shall certify annually that all applicable State and local public notice requirements were followed.

Implementation Schedule

Upon the date of authorization

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

This SBR means that the Tier A Municipality must comply with any applicable State and local public notice requirements when a public involvement/participation program is being implemented in regard to the municipality's Stormwater Program. The permit requires the Tier A Municipality to comply with requirements for public notice that are already in effect under law. Examples include the public notice requirements in the Open Public Meetings Act ("Sunshine Law," N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.) and in the statutory procedures for the passage of ordinances (e.g., N.J.S.A. 40:49-2). Another example is the public notice requirements in the Municipal Land Use Law concerning the adoption or amendment of the municipal stormwater management plan.

However, the Department recommends that the Tier A Municipality go beyond the SBR to include the public more broadly in developing, implementing, and reviewing the SPPP.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Public participation and involvement is critical to the success of a municipality's Stormwater Program. Members of the public who participate in the development and decision making process are more likely to take an active role in implementing this program and also serve as ambassadors to the program. In addition, reaching out to the public and soliciting their involvement gives a municipality a broader base of knowledge to draw from and provides a conduit to other programs (e.g., watershed groups and other government programs). Opportunities for members of the public to participate in program development and implementation include serving as citizen representatives on a local stormwater management panel, attending public hearings, working as citizen volunteers to educate other individuals about the program, assisting in program coordination with other pre-existing programs, or participating in volunteer monitoring efforts.

In order for public participation projects to be successful, the participants must feel as though they have done something worthwhile. There are a variety of ways in which this can be accomplished, including:

- Taking pictures of participants to create a pictorial record of their activities and/or publishing them in the local newspapers;
- Distributing logo items such as T-shirts, hats, badges, plastic water bottles, or other items to participants; or
- Providing each participant with a certificate of appreciation and/or a letter of thanks signed by the mayor.

When participants are made to feel as though their contributions are worthwhile they will be encouraged to continue to participate and to take a more active role in their community. The more members of the community that support and encourage the municipality's Stormwater Program the more successful it will be.